



Co-operative Federation of Victoria Ltd

Agenda board meeting 10:30 a.m 3 May 2011, Substitution Pty Ltd, 1/484 William Street, North Melbourne

1. Minute

That the minute of the meeting of 3 February 2011 be accepted as a true and accurate record.

2. Welcome to new director

Chairman officially welcomes Rowan Dowland to the board.

3. Business arising from meeting of 3 February 2011:

3.1 CFNSW

Chairman to report on any contact with CFNSW Chairman, Tony Rogic, since the last board meeting.

2.2 Co-operative Education

At the last meeting it was agreed to circulate to directors feedback information on the Co-operative Identity workshop held on 22 November 2010 at Heritage Hill Museum, Dandenong on 22 November 2010. This is attached.

It was also noted that Mervyn Wilson (UK Co-operative College) was interested in visiting Australia to discuss co-operative schools in the UK. It was agreed to circulate more information to directors as a basis for further discussion. This information is attached.

2.3 CAV

The Chairman to report on his meeting with Alexander Secombe, Ministerial Advisor on Consumer Affairs to Mr. Michael O'Brien MLA, Minister for Consumer Affairs on 4 February 2011. The meeting on 3 February 2011 identified issues for the discussion:

2.4 Co-operatives Australia

The next Co-operatives Australia meeting will be on the 28 April 2011. A copy of the agenda is attached.

CA is finalising its third Top 100 list. David Dinning has helped me to verify financial turnover figures. We still do not, however, have current turnover figures, member and staff numbers for Terang, HICO and Genetics Australia. Apart from this, the list has been delayed because of staffing changes in NSW with Helen McCall taking extended leave. The NSW list was provided on 20 April 2011 and the final draft will be ready for the CA meeting on 28 April 2011.

The second list was distributed in the national mail out to co-operatives with SBA funding the copying and mailing of the list. This gave the list significant exposure that would otherwise not be possible.

While the third list will have more depth than the first two, there is a need to better resource the preparation of the list beyond the current capacity and willingness of the CA and individual federations. Through our involvement with the National IYC Steering Committee, ABACUS Australian Mutuals is about to enter discussions with Co-operatives Australia about these resourcing requirements and will provide staff or financial resources up to the value of \$5000 for the 2012 list. A further aim for 2012 would be for the list to be published in the mainstream media.

2.5 Co-operatives National Law

While the Ministerial Council had agreed to deal with the draft legislation prior to the NSW election as an out-of-session issue with release of the Bill early in the new year, this did not eventuate. The latest information as of 7 April 2011 is as follows:

NSW Parliamentary Counsel has asked all governments/jurisdictions to finalise comments on the existing NCL by Monday 11 April and also provide a consolidated response to the draft Application Bill that date. NSW is waiting to hear from several jurisdictions about both drafts.

There is also the prospect of needing to make some adjustments arising from comments from the Parliamentary Counsels Committee - this is the group representing all State & Territory Parliamentary Counsel. These comments will relate (mostly) to how the NCL fits with regard to other State & Territory laws. Amendments from this direction are usually technical in nature - and dealt with in savings and transitional clauses within each jurisdiction. Once these comments are received, NSW considers it will be in the home straight in terms of producing a finalised, consolidated bill by May 2011.

2.6 International Year of Co-operatives



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National Call to Action information pack was mailed to around 2000 co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals and that this has been the first known ever national mail out to the sector. As of 12 April 2011 there had been a limited response::

Inner City Clay Cooperative (state?)
CoHousing South Hobart
Cooperative Housing Societies NSW
Casterton Community Cooperative Ltd (Vic)
Cooperative Housing Societies (Qld)

CV sent a letter to the 23 registered co-operatives in Tasmania on 11 January 2011. A meeting has now been organised for the 9 May 2011. The agenda for the meeting was emailed on 20 April 2011 asking for interest in a meeting to discuss IYC 2012, a co-operative federation for Tasmania and Co-operatives National Law. Tony O'Shea will be representing Co-operatives Victoria. Given that up to 7 - 10 co-operatives and 12-20 co-operators will be at the meeting, this is a high proportion of the number of registered co-operatives. The agenda for the meeting is attached.

Following the national mail out by the IYC National Steering Committee and SBA, a CV letter on IYC was sent to 123 Victorian co-operatives calling for expressions of interest in a meeting to discuss IYC 2012. The mail out included the new CV brochure. There has been one response – a positive response from the radio station 3PBS. It was agreed on 3 February 2011 that follow-up contact would be made with the following to establish interest in a IYC meeting and information for the Top 100 list on turnover, members and staff numbers:

| | |
|----------|----|
| CEHL | SF |
| MECU | DD |
| HICO | TO |
| MG | TO |
| Genetics | NB |

Note CEHL is organising a national co-operative housing conference in January or February 2012.

The National IYC Steering Committee is going to establish a web site www.australia2012.coop There will be a meeting in Canberra or Sydney on the 25 May 2011 to discuss the development of the web site. CV Secretary David Griffiths is the designated web manager for the site. This is supported by CA.

In the Co-operatives Australia statement, International Year of Co-operatives 2012 (February 2011) the following strategic priorities and planning initiatives were announced:

Strategic Priorities for IYC 2012

Co-operatives Australia has identified these strategic co-operatives for Australia's co-operatives:

1. Increased awareness of the co-operative option and co-operatives.
2. Enhancing the capacity of the co-operative sector and movement.
3. Strengthening co-operative education.

4. Creating legacy initiatives.

Achieving these strategic priorities will require the engagement of co-operatives at all levels – local, State and national – and engaging members, boards and staff.

Planning for IYC 2012

Co-operatives Australia has commenced planning for IYC 2012.

An IYC 2012 web site will be established and Co-operatives Australia will be responsible for developing and maintaining the web site in co-operation with Social Business Australia and the IYC Steering Committee.

Co-operatives Australia will also organise a national co-operative conference in 2012 that will be integrated with a complement individual State IYC programs and activities.

We will also be working towards the establishment of a national co-operative logo that can symbolise and unify all co-operatives throughout Australia with its launch in 2012.

An IYC 2012 Information Kit will also be developed for use by co-operatives. An online version of the kit will also be available.

Co-operatives Australia need to confirm these priorities and initiatives and establish a timetable for their implementation.

3. Financial Statements

The Treasurer will present the financial statements

The Treasurer will also report on the term deposit of \$10,000 with MECU.

4. Other Matters

4.1 Annual Subscriptions

Annual Subscription notices were mailed by 30 November 2010 and to date the following have paid the 2010-2011 Annual Subscription:

MECU \$1500
Amalgamated Taxis Wodonga Co-op \$275
Avoca \$385
Northcote RHC \$275
Para Park Cooperative Game Reserve Ltd \$275
Ruach \$165
SEHC \$550
Urban Camp \$285
Nurray Goulburn \$7000
DemoDairy \$385
Pyrenees Hay Processors \$275

4.3 Waverley Trading Co-operative.

The co-operative had not yet been wound-up.

5. Future Meetings

Future schedule of meetings:

5 July 2011 (DD is an apology)

6 September 2011

15 November 2011 (also AGM date)

Attachments

Co-operative Identity Workshop

Co-operative Schools in the UK

Co-operatives Australia, SBA and the National IYC
Steering Committee

Co-operative Identity Workshop

Only 7 evaluation sheets of the Co-operative Identity Workshop on 22 November 2010 were obtained. This is because the evaluation sheets were not available on the day of the workshop and were emailed to participants subsequent to the workshop. Nonetheless, the results of the 7 were very positive and, based on feedback from CEHL, representative of other participants who did not complete the evaluation forms.

Delegate Evaluation

Workshop: Co-operative Identity
 Date: 22.11.10
 Venue: Melbourne, Australia
 Facilitator: Chris Cooper

1 Disagree completely 2 Disagree mostly 3 Agree mostly 4 Agree completely

Aims and Objectives

The aims and objectives of the workshop were clear.

Disagree Completely 1 2 3 4 Agree Completely

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The workshop was relevant to your role.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Your performance will be improved as a result of attending this workshop.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

Content and Delivery

The workshop was well organised.

Disagree Completely 1 2 3 4 Agree Completely

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The facilitator was well prepared and knowledgeable.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The facilitator was approachable and helped me make progress.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The facilitator communicated well and used a variety of teaching methods.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The facilitator checked understanding before moving to the next topic.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

The workshop materials were appropriate and helpful.

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

☐ 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4

If you ticked 'disagree completely' or 'disagree mostly' for any of the above then please tell us why:



Learning

What was your level of knowledge in this subject prior to attending this workshop (Please tick)

LOW 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 HIGH

What is your level of knowledge now (Please tick)

LOW 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ 4 ☐ 5 ☐ 6 HIGH

Overall Workshop Rating

The workshop met my expectations

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Disagree Completely | → | | Agree Completely |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Overall the workshop was good

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Any further comments?

Administration

The pre-course instructions were easy to understand

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Disagree Completely | → | | Agree Completely |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

The training venue was good

| | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

The accommodation was good

| | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|

The refreshments were good

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|

Which sessions did you find most useful and why?

Which sessions did you find the least useful and why?

How will you and/or your organisation benefit from your attendance of this workshop?

Name

Organisation

Signature

Date

22.11.2010

If there are any aspects of the workshop that you would like to raise directly with the College please contact Emma Willder, Vice Principal, at emma@co-op.ac.uk

Co-operative Schools in the UK

The following information is from the web site of the UK Co-operative College

The Co-operative College has worked with the Co-operative Group and schools to develop a distinct co-operative trust model that enables schools to embed co-operative values into the long term ethos of the school.

Co-operative trust schools combine long term institutional partnerships with a membership structure that enables parents, learners, staff and community organisations to be directly involved in the trust. Stakeholders drawn from these groups are elected to a Forum which holds the Trust to account, helps shape its policies and elects a proportion of trustees.

The stake-holding model puts the community at the heart of education provision, based on the belief that it is only through the active engagement of communities that the aspirations and expectations of educational achievement can be transformed.

The co-operative trust model is being adapted and adopted by trusts throughout the country, from small single school trusts to large community-based clusters.

- Click [here](#) to download a pdf of the booklet ‘**Co-operative Values Make a Difference – In the Curriculum and Governance of Schools**’.
- The **latest news on co-operative schools** can be found in the Co-operative Schools updates for [June](#) and [September](#).

The Co-operative College Principal Mervyn Wilson discusses co-operative schools in this video produced by Co-operatives UK:

Academies

With the rapidly changing educational landscape and the heavy promotion of the new academies by the Coalition Government, a growing number of schools have approached us about a co-operative model for the ‘type 2’ academies. Whilst not advocating or promoting academies, we recognise that many schools are now seriously considering the option in view of local circumstances and competitive pressures, expectations from local authorities, and the financial advantages. As a result, a group of schools, some existing co-operative trust schools and some interested in a co-operative model for academies, are now working with the Co-operative College and Cobbetts to develop a model that retains the critical elements of co-operative schools identified through our work with trusts:

- An ethos based on our globally shared co-operative values.
- Governance mechanisms that can ensure key stakeholders – parents/carers, staff, learners and the local community – have a voice through membership.

Case Studies

Reddish Vale Co-operative Trust



Reddish Vale Technology College was the first school in England to become a co-operative trust, with the Reddish Vale Co-operative Trust established in March 2008.

Reddish Vale is a large secondary school, with nearly 1,400 learners. OFSTED describes it as serving an area of relative disadvantage, and the percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals and those with learning difficulties and disabilities is higher than the national average. Its most recent OFSTED Report in 2007 described the school as good with some aspects, such as provision for care, guidance and support outstanding.

The Reddish Vale consultation document emphasised its tradition of embracing innovation and change, stating: “In 1995 we were one of the first schools to become a specialist school. We now want to become one of the first to become part of a co-operative trust.”

It added: “The co-operative trust will give us a stable platform on which to build partnerships and continue to develop to meet the changing needs of our local communities.”

Phil Arnold, Director of Schools Improvement, emphasised how the Trust was enabling the school to seize new opportunities:

“Working with our partners we are keen to pursue new capital funding to complement our BSF plans and seek ways to engage young people through social enterprise. The ‘My Place’ programme, for example, has offered young people hands on opportunities to develop and manage a youth co-operative. They have come together through membership of the trust to bid to deliver sport, leisure, information advice & guidance and a safe place to be in the heart of their community. Their bid “Our Space” has a co-operative enterprise –run by young people for young people – as its centrepiece.”

In a meeting of young co-operators at the school these young pioneers were clear: “If you want an exciting range of facilities and activities for young people get us fully involved in the design, management and delivery, that way you know it will continue to work.”

Reddish Vale Co-operative Trust Members



Ashley Simpson, aged 19, University of Leeds, Stockport County Supporters Co-operative and Reddish Vale Co-operative Trust founding Member:

Without doubt Co-operation has truly transformed my life.

The catalyst for significant change which enabled me to move out of the dark and in to the light was this idea proposed to me about a co-operative trust school. This seemed the only suitable alternative for the school, and for me. The idea of a democratically controlled school, where parents, pupils, staff and community members had a voice, thus engaging and empowering certain sections of the Reddish community which previously felt isolated and disillusioned, was the way to go.

This was where what seems theory became reality for one Year 10 pupil.

The ethics and values of co-operation shocked me to the core; the idea that schools were not functioning on the grounds of self-help, equality, social responsibility, democracy, autonomy and independence enraged me. These key ethics fused with me instantly; the idea of a school being mutually run for the benefit of all the stakeholders seemed common sense. Thus the ethics and values of co-operation and the structure of mutualism empowered me, freeing me of the shackles of dogmatic school practices.

The connection made was not just specific to schools; it recognised a much bigger picture, the community value and value to society co-operation has. The bigger picture, the long term picture of sustainability, is the most important aspect of any organisation. To me this is about a long term strategic gradual process of transforming lives through, empowerment, engagement, participation and innovation.

This approach leads to the next part of my story. The transition detailed above provided me with opportunities I could only dream about – for one I wouldn't even be writing this!

The Reddish Vale Co-operative Trust has inspired me through its vision and optimism. The opportunities it has enabled me to do today include going to University and I currently I am studying Politics at the University of Leeds. Moreover, the co-operative trust has provided a catalyst for me to create a social agenda within Stockport. Through Co-operation, I am a Board Member of Stockport County Supporters Co-operative and we are looking to enact radical social change through football. Specifically it has enabled me to communicate with a greater audience to tell my vision: internships with my MP, working six weeks with the Co-operative Group, community work, speeches at conferences...I could go on, but the key message here is co-operation provides opportunities for all. An opportunity for you to step out of the status quo, to change your life and to change your society.

Co-operation is about the big picture – working together to find solutions, to find long term success. This is the best alternative for business, this is the best alternative for schools, and co-operation should be the majority of our actions in the way we choose to live our lives.

Jordan, aged 16:

I am part of the Co-operative Trust here at RVTC. At first there was a lot of debate whether or not turning our school into a co-operative would benefit us (the students) in the long run, but as the school changed, so did everything else. Students gained a powerful voice that became just as equally heard as the voice of the teachers is. RVTC became 'our' school, and not just another dictatorship-like ran school that are commonly known throughout the North West (even though Head Teachers or anyone else for that matter, don't like to use the word dictatorship when in reference to 'their' school).

To me, the co-operative trust is the future. It's about shaping the way forward, and changing the world for the better. It has helped me a lot in allowing me to get involved in journalism a lot more than I had ever hoped to do before going to college and actually making my stamp on the world. Furthermore, the co-operative approach has allowed me to get more involved in my interest of politics, and has pushed me towards my wanted career of becoming a politician. I have been able to become more actively involved in all my interests and has allowed me to develop my skills which enables me to look into my future and gain a further understanding of where I want to go in the world, and where I want to make my mark. The co-operative trust is an excellent starting point for all students to get their foot in the door of the career they want to lead their life towards.

Lipson Community College

Lipson Community College was the first school in southern England to set up a co-operative trust. Principal Steve Baker, welcoming the then Secretary of State for Education Ed Balls's visit, said: "Current events suggest the need to work with ethical partners is crucial for schools. Working with a Co-operative Society as opposed to a plc means people not profit are the bottom line. It is about aspiring not to have more, but to be more."

Steve argues that this is “not about the privatisation of education but about giving local people a greater say in how their schools are run. The Plymouth and South West Co-operative Society will be a key partner in helping us generate further capacity within our local community to meet the National Challenge.” Mr Baker added: “They are helping us to help ourselves.”

Lipson and the other LASC (Lipson Area Schools Council) schools were among the first wave of a national network of 100 Co-operative Trust schools announced by Ed Balls.

Linda Gilroy, who was local MP at the time, said: “Co-op values centre around self-help; self-responsibility; democracy; equality; equity and solidarity and provide a framework which encourages honesty, openness, social responsibility and caring for others. I am delighted that Ed Balls – who like myself is a Labour and Co-operative Member of Parliament – has had the chance to meet staff governors and students at Lipson College today.”

“This model has a lot to offer Lipson’s students and works with the grain of everything that they have been doing to raise standards and to provide them with a good all round education. I will be taking a keen interest in how the school goes forward and have certainly been very impressed with the enthusiasm of everyone I have met this afternoon.”

The Co-operative College have been working with Lipson to develop the Co-operative Trust, and help them establish links with other Co-operative Trusts. College Principal Mervyn Wilson commented: “Becoming a co-operative trust school is a key part of Lipson’s strategy to raise achievement and strengthen their links with the community. They will benefit from the growing network of co-operative trusts and their well established with the Plymouth and South West Society”.

Campsmount Technology College and Community Partnership Trust



Campsmount Technology College is located north of Doncaster and serves the ex-mining communities of Askern, Campsall and Norton. The community has struggled to recover from the devastating impact of the closure of the pit, the dominant employer, in the 1980s.

This resulted in over 65% male unemployment at the time. Unemployment remains well above the national average, and the school's last OFSTED Report indicates other characteristics of deprivation, a higher than average proportion of students eligible for free school meals and higher than average proportion of students with special educational needs.

The inspection described the school as 'a good and improving school with some outstanding features'. Campsmount Technology College and the Community Partnership Trust were clear about why they wanted to become a trust. The vision is 'Raising aspirations, raising achievement'.

The trust involves Doncaster College, the Co-operative College, North Doncaster Rural Trust and Leeds Metropolitan University and is devoted 'to raising community aspirations through valuing education and training, embedding a lifelong learning ethos and actively promoting regeneration in the community'.

Its consultation document states – 'the CCPT will be a co-operative trust that will establish long term and sustainable partnerships with a wide variety of other organisations. As a cooperative trust we will adopt the values and principles of the co-operative movement'.

The document states that the trust will 'provide a mechanism for all members of the community, especially parents and carers of the children and young people to have a voice in the development and management of the school. This will be achieved through their membership of a forum that will appoint trustees'.

Headteacher Andy Sprakes commented: "Campsmount has improved significantly over the past few years and I see the establishment of a Co-operative Trust as the next progressive stage in our development. The Trust will ensure that the community, learners and other stakeholders have a key strategic role in the development of learning opportunities and service provision that will impact on educational standards and improve life chances across the community."

Sutherland Business and Enterprise College



Sutherland Business and Enterprise College in Telford is a small but growing secondary school, with just over 600 pupils.

The school is in a challenging area, with OFSTED describing it as ‘having a higher than average proportion of pupils entitled to free school meals, attainment on entry below average, and the proportion of pupils with learning difficulties above the national average’. The OFSTED Report described Sutherland as ‘satisfactory and improving, and with a determination to eliminate weak teaching and provide professional development for school’.

In 2007, the school successfully applied to become a Specialist Business and Enterprise College, with Midcounties Co-operative Society as its main sponsor. It is now an active participant in the network of co-operative Business and Enterprise Colleges. Head Teacher Steve Wall is currently encouraging a cluster of at least eight schools, possibly more, to become involved in a co-operative trust, adding: “I am confident that the trust will enable us to embed the co-operative values driven approach that we have adopted. We see the trust as providing a method to improve on the way we work and improve the quality of life for our school, our community and its residents.”

Upper Shirley High School



Upper Shirley High School in Southampton, which became a co-operative trust school in April 2009, underwent a radical transformation from being a boys’ school in Special Measures to a popular co-educational school after new principal Cassie Ellins embraced the trust model.

Ofsted describes Upper Shirley’s 600 students as “diverse” with “higher than average student numbers who speak English as an additional language. It also has a higher than average proportion of students with learning difficulties and/or disabilities.”

The school was placed Special Measures in 2005, with the local community disengaged from the school and student admissions falling from 140 to 80.

The school was removed from Special Measures after three terms, and was oversubscribed in 2008, when Ofsted rated the extent to which learners make a positive contribution to the community as outstanding. The school’s GCSE results in 2008 showed an increase in 5 A*-C from 31% in 2007 to 51% in 2008.

The Upper Shirley Learning Community has used the co-operative 'trust' mechanism to cement partnerships with local infant and junior schools, a sixth form college and a local special school.

Cassie Ellins, Principal, commented:

“A co-operative trust allows a more formal mechanism for consultation and engagement driven by the co-operative values but centred in the community. This will assist the school in continuing to raise standards and is vital for the planned rebuild of the school under the Building Schools for Future programme. The new Upper Shirley High really will be at the heart of our community.”

Richard Nicholls of Virtual Schools described becoming a co-operative schools trust as “the perfect extension to the vision and ethos that has been built up over the years”, whilst Chair of Governors John Green stated:

“The whole governing body unanimously backed the move to co-operative trust status because of the alignment with our own values.”

BIRCHES HEAD HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY COHESION GROUP



Our first Community Cohesion Group (CCG) meeting was held on 16 September 2009. Invitations were sent out to a range of local agencies, offering a regular forum for partnership working, projects which would be mutually beneficial, new and valuable networking opportunities and a pizza meal!

CCG meetings take place each month and include items like: agency presentations, partnership mapping, wanted and offered, funding, gender stereotypes and networking.

Over 50 individual members from 25 agencies have attended meetings over the last year.

The group has been developing a community involvement model in the form of a spider diagram, for use online by parents and the wider community.

This represents the links the school has formed with current partners within the following groups: Employers, Health, Education, Cultural/Leisure, Youth Services, Local Authority, IAG and 3rd Sector.

Links to individual agency websites, detailed local information and a short film of the venue or services offered make up the content of the model, which all partners can adapt and use to suit their organisation.

For example, one of the Local Authority partners, Staffordshire Police, offer advice and support for local residents through their Police Post.

Further monthly CCG meetings are planned throughout 2010/11 with the added involvement of the Trust for Innovative Learning and Training (TILT) members, including parents and the student repr

Co-operatives Australia, SBA and the National IYC Steering Committee

Social Business Australia

Social Business Australia (SBA) was formed in 2009 by a group of like-minded social businesses, to assist Australian social businesses to develop and grow in the competitive environment of the mainstream economy.

Sometimes described as social enterprise, social businesses have social objectives at their core, and diverse ownership structures. The businesses we support are different to not-for-profit and for profit types of enterprise - the former do not make profits and the latter use profits to reward capital.

SBA activities raise the profile of a range of business forms such as co-operatives, employee-owned enterprises, and social entrepreneurs trading for the purpose of creating social value.

SBA wants to help increase the number of social businesses operating successfully in the Australian economy and to educate the wider public about a different, more ethical and sustainable way of doing business.

SBA has strong links with the national and international social business movement. We provide a platform for these developments to be shared with the Australian business community, the public and the media and we encourage debate and discussion on the merits of moving to a more values-based mixed economy.

SBA wants social businesses to have access to the resources and support they need to scale up and trade successfully in the real economy.

SBA creates opportunities for sharing knowledge, skills and best practice, through wider communication, industry talks, international speakers, case studies and advocacy.

SBA supports:

- **Access to training and education for social business**

To get established and grow, social businesses need access to a range of learning opportunities, particularly in the technical areas critical to their commercial success including - market analysis, investment strategies, ownership structures, social impact assessment, governance, organisational development and membership planning.

- **Greater capital investment in social business**

To encourage more enterprises to take up the social business option, SBA supports initiatives to grow the market for greater capital investment in businesses that have social purpose at their core. SBA encourages finance providers, such as credit unions, mutuals, CDFIs (community development finance institutions) and industry super funds to invest in social forms of business.

- **Better industry profile**

Social businesses can grow their competitive advantage in the market by successfully communicating their differences. SBA activities raise the profile of all types of social business and help communicate the social business advantage.

The founding members of Social Business Australia are:

Trent Bartlett

As CEO of one of Australia's leading social businesses, Capricorn Society Ltd, Trent understands the commercial and ethical imperatives of growing a sustainable social enterprise in the global market. Trent is proud to be associated with an organisation that aims to deliver the foundation skills and technical services to realise the real growth of social business in the mainstream Australian economy. trent.bartlett@socialbusiness.coop

Suzanne Henderson

Suzanne has delivered strategic marketing and media services to government, the third sector and education clients for the past three decades. As founding Editor of Community Cooperative Connections (CCC eNews) Australia's online newsletter combining the co-operative, community, and not for profit sectors, and as an associate-editor of the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) Digest, Suzanne has reported on co-operative and social enterprise development around the world for over ten years. suzanne.henderson@socialbusiness.coop

Alan Greig

Alan has advocated for employee and community ownership solutions since the 1980s. He has been a member of the Management Committee of the Australian Employee Ownership Association (AEOA) since its inception in 1986 (www.aeo.org.au). The AEOA has set up an Employee Buyout Centre - the Australian Employee Buyout Centre (www.aebc.org.au) which is funded by the Federal Government to support and advise on employee buyout strategies for saving jobs in distressed businesses. Alan is a director of the Centre. alan.greig@socialbusiness.coop

Melina Morrison

Melina is Associate-Editor of the members' Digest for the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) - the global peak for co-operative businesses. She has written on the topic of social business for the past eight years for industry publications and co-op organisations. As an Associate of Sommerson Communications (Third Sector communication specialists) she has

wide experience engaging the media in ideas around building social capital through profitable social businesses. melina.morrison@socialbusiness.coop

Co-operatives Australia

CA is an unincorporated body with no resources of its own. CA has one representative on the IYC Steering Committee the ability of CA to do anything depends on what financial and other support individual federations are willing to provide Ca and there is a disparity in the resource capacity of individual federations. Nonetheless, the individual federations did contribute to transferring the australia.coop web site from Co-operatives Victoria and contributing to the ongoing maintenance costs. Co-operatives Australia

Public Policy and Co-operatives

This is the first statement released by Co-operatives Australia in April 2009. Co-operatives Australia has published this paper to demonstrate the economic and social value that can be delivered by co-operative businesses and the need for public policy to incorporate the co-operative option. (April 2009)

Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals

Co-operatives Australia has published a 2nd top 100 list of co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals by annual turnover. The 2nd list also includes member and employee numbers. The list demonstrates the economic and social impact of the top 100. Co-operatives Australia expressly disclaims any warranties or representations, express or implied, of any kind as to the accuracy and completeness of the list and invites any of the entities listed to supply evidence to support any requested corrections. (September 2010) For a copy of the 1st list published in June 2009. [Australia's Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutuals](#)

Co-operative Education

Co-operatives Australia has published this paper to affirm the importance of co-operative education to the co-operative business model e.g. agricultural, child care, commodity, fishing, housing and retail co-operatives. (March 2010)

Valuing Co-operation

Co-operatives Australia has published this paper to affirm the importance of co-operatives recognising that demutualisation is not inevitable; that a subsequent loss of member ownership and control has significant consequences; that there are alternative strategic and structural choices, and that balanced information is the prerequisite to informed choice. (April 2010)

International Year of Co-operatives 2012

Co-operatives Australia has published a new statement to affirm its commitment to the 2012 International Year of Co-operatives.. The official theme of IYC 2012 is: Co-operative enterprises build a better world. The statement covers Co-operatives as Value Creating Business Enterprises, Co-operatives and IYC 2012, Strategic Priorities for IYC 2012, IYC 2012 Steering Committee, Planning for IYC 2012 and Who is Co-operatives Australia. The statement can be downloaded (February 2011)

IYC National Steering Committee

The IYC National Steering Committee was formed in May 2010. It's mission statement and its vision follows:

UN International year of Co-operatives Australian National Steering Committee

Mission statement

To engage and involve the broad range of social businesses operating in Australia today, to coordinate a national response to the opportunity presented by the United Nations declared International Year Co-operatives 2012.

Vision

To harness Australia's potential by involving more Australians in fair, ethical, and sustainable trading through community owned businesses that enhance the economic and social wellbeing of members and their communities.

IYC National Steering Committee Members

Patron: Bob Debus, Former Federal Minister for Home Affairs

Chair: Trent Bartlett, CEO Capricorn Society Ltd

Belinda Drew, CEO, Foresters Community Finance

Alan Greig, President, Australian Employee Ownership Association

David Griffiths, Chair and Secretary, Co-operatives Australia

Suzanne Henderson, Director, Social Business Australia

Martin May, Director, Hepburn Wind

Melina Morrison, Director, Social Business Australia

Daniel Newlan, Senior Adviser, Policy and Public Affairs, Abacus – Australian Mutuals

Roger Nicoll, Director, West Belconnen Health Co-operative

Richard O'Leary, CEO, Macleay Regional Co-operative Ltd

Neville Parsons, CEO, Holiday Coast Credit Union

Peter Tregilgas, EO, Regional Development Australia, Mid North Coast Region

Of the 11 members:

- 5 are from co-operatives
- 3 are from credit unions and mutuals
- 3 are from SBA

State Co-operative Federations have been invited to nominate representatives to the IYC National Steering Committee.

National IYC Steering Committee

Milestones

March 2010

Social Business Australia launched at Australian Parliament House with an address by Dame Pauline Green, President, International Co-operative Alliance

May 2010

National Steering Committee formed

Australia Day 2011

National Call to Action launch - Info packs mailed to every registered co-operative business and credit union in Australia

January 2011

NFP holding company *IYC 2012 Secretariat* incorporated

March 2011

Formal UN recognition of Australia's national steering committee as the national coordinating body for IYC 2012 <http://social.un.org/coopsyear/>

Issues – Choices and Decisions

Co-operatives Australia is an interim and temporary peak group which does not have the capacity of the national peak bodies in countries such as Canada, the UK and the USA.

In these countries the national co-operative peak bodies are taking the initiative in responding to IYC 2012. But, then, they have a resource capacity to take this initiative. In Australia, the drive has come from Social Business Australia and subsequently the IOYC National Steering Committee which is resourced by SBA. The primary drive behind SBA is the current CEO of Capricorn Society, Trent Bartlett. Trent will be leaving Capricorn in October 2011 at the latest or earlier particularly if he secures alternative employment. He reported to a n IYC Steering Committee meeting on 19 April 2011 that Capricorn was still committed to SBA and had committed a further \$150,000.

In brief, the initiative for forming the IYC National Steering Committee was due to SBA which haws resourced meetings, telephone costs, administrative support and a mail out to all co-operatives, credit unions and mutuals throughout Australia and has won international recognition by the United Nations as the Australian IYC Steering Committee. SBA has established a secretariat to service the IYC Steering Committee

Co-operatives Australia was not able or willing to undertake the mail out. itself Social Business Australia paid for the printing and postage costs. While the mail out includes the second Top 100 Co-operatives, Credit Unions and Mutusals, CA did not contribute to the printing or postage cosrt. Co-operatives Australia is unable and unwilling to service the Steering Committee. undertake. T

The capacity of individual State Federations in Australia is dependent on the support of co-operatives in their respective State and this is variable between the States. In brief, there are relatively strong federations and weak federations. The strong federations have significantly greater resources than the weak federations and the weak federations have limited resources. Despite this, even the weak federations can and do make a useful contribution despite their resource constraints:

| Strong Federations | Weak Federations |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Co-operatives WA | CFQ |
| CFNSW | CFSA |
| | Co-operatives Victoria |

The issue for all State Federations is whether or not they want to establish a national peak body with resources and should this be an objective for 2012 and whether this is a reasonable and realistic objective and with what consequences. In contrast, SBA has resources and allocates some of these to the IYC National Steering Committee.

It is, of course, arguable that IYC 2012 will not necessaril resolve the weaknesses of federations that do not have sufficient support from co-operatives in their respective states. In Victoria, for example, a special out about IYC 2012 to 123 co-operatives received one positive response. A national body with resources would not necessarily resolve this lack of support but merely transfer the weaknesses of the state federations to a national body and this could be worse than the current situation where there are some strong federations. Nonetheless, there would be value in discussing the option for a better-resourced national body.

It is, of course, possible the National IYC Steering Committee will be able to reach out to co-operatives and secure their support for IYC 2012 in a way that state federations are unable to do so but, then, this will be variable depending on the state federations. Co-operatives WA would appear to be the most advanced in reaching out to co-operatives on IYC 2012.